

Independent claim 1 recites a washing machine, comprising, *inter alia*, a first microcomputer configured to control operation of the load section and to read an operation state of the load section, and a second microcomputer coupled to the first microcomputer and the interface section, wherein the second microcomputer is configured to upload the stored operation history data to the external device, to download a plurality of new washer operation parameters from the external device, and to store the downloaded parameters in the memory device. As discussed during the personal interview, JP '799 neither discloses nor suggests such features.

More specifically, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the comparison drawn between the second microcomputer recited in independent claim 1 and the external instrument disclosed by JP '799. As discussed during the personal interview, the second microcomputer recited in independent claim 1 is a part of the washing machine which is coupled to both a separate external source and the first microcontroller, and which communicates with the separate external device to upload and download information. In contrast, the external instrument disclosed by JP '799 is external to the washing machine, and is coupled only to the communication means 10. Further, the external instrument provides a source from which information may be uploaded/downloaded, but is not configured to actually upload/download information as is the second microcontroller recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the external instrument disclosed by JP '799 is more appropriately compared to the external

device recited in independent claim 1, and that JP '799 neither discloses nor suggests a second microcontroller in addition to a first microcontroller, and an external device as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is not anticipated by JP '799 and thus the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP '799 should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-5 and 34-45 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

Independent claim 6 recites, *inter alia*, a first microcomputer configured to control operation of the load section and to read an operation state of the load section, and a second microcomputer coupled to the first microcomputer, wherein the second microcomputer is configured to upload the stored operation history to an external device, to download a plurality of new washer operation parameters from the external device, and to store the downloaded operation parameters in the memory device. As discussed during the personal interview and as set forth above, JP '799 neither discloses nor suggests such features.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 6 is not anticipated by JP '799, and thus the rejection of independent claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP '799 should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 46-59 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 6, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

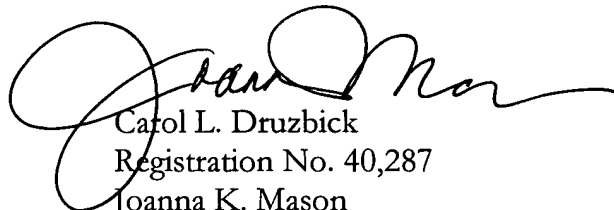
Serial No. 09/944,378
Amdt. dated June 14, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 2, 2005

Docket No. K-0319

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, **Joanna K. Mason**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: June 14, 2005

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